

## Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry in 2020



# Orthodox Christian PRISON MINISTRY

Despite the immense challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic and a generally hectic 2020, your prayers and financial support allowed Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry to adapt and continue to minister to those who are incarcerated and their families.

Fr. John Kowalczyk, Director of Field Education Studies at St. Tikhon's Seminary, federal corrections chaplain, and OCPM board member said that the mantra many prison ministry volunteers adopted during the pandemic is "keep your distance, however draw near to Christ." A simple approach with powerful results.

In 2020, the immense ministry OCPM does through the mail became even more critical, with jails and prisons going into covid lockdowns. We began to see new things, with some facilities allowing video conferencing.

The impact through the year was immense during this time when OCPM was largely the only outside contact for thousands of hundreds of prisoners:

Mail and Replies Sent: 16,384

Packages of Spiritual Materials Sent: 871

Catechism Study Guides Sent: 390

Icons Sent: 10,978

Postcards/Weekly Letters Sent: 13,773

Bibles & Books Sent: 1,252

"Thanks for writing me; it makes me feel good, because I pray to God to show me if He is listening to me. And I know that He does because your letters show me that."

We are also pleased to state that despite the pandemic, Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry is deep into the implementation of our strategic plan. We are working on fresh methods to incorporate volunteers into this important work and are holding ourselves to the highest industry standards for excellence.

We celebrate the fact that eternal life and hope are available to all people due to Christ's birth and ultimate sacrifice. We also celebrate the fact that as a Church we are able to bring this hope to those who are incarcerated and their families no matter the difficulties placed before us.

Thank you sincerely to all our supporters who helped us through this difficult year. We look forward to an immense 2021 and beyond, as we work to heal lives and through them communities.

[goarch.org](http://goarch.org)



The image is a promotional graphic for a documentary. At the top, the title "Saint Joseph the Hesychast" is written in a gold-colored serif font. Below the title is a large, dark photograph of an elderly man with a long white beard, wearing a dark hooded cloak, standing outdoors with a sunset or sunrise in the background. To the right of this main image is a call-to-action text: "Documentary" in gold, "Click here" in blue, and "to watch" in blue, with a small white hand cursor icon pointing at the "to watch" text. At the bottom of the graphic are two smaller, square video stills: one showing a person in a blue hooded cloak from behind, and another showing a close-up of a person's face looking upwards. To the right of these stills are five small, circular gold awards or certificates.