



ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN LAITY

December 8, 1994

Dear Pilgrim:

Thank you for all your kind messages, photos, and good wishes for my speedy recovery from pneumonia. As promised, the complete list of addresses and phone numbers of all participants on the OCL Pilgrimage is enclosed.

Also, I was fortunate in obtaining quantities of a new mini-cookbook, BEYOND MILK AND HONEY, which contains unique traditional Israeli recipes. You will discover the cuisine bears some resemblance to its neighboring countries, including Greece. Factors such as geography, climate, and culture, along with the over 80 different nationalities in Israel, have created a multicultural Jewish cuisine. Bon appetit!

Special greetings to all OCL pilgrims from Bishop Nikiphoros. An unfortunate development took place on October 31. His recent letter states:

. . .our Patriarch and the Holy Synod decided that it is better for them to try to silence me from talking about the problems of the Patriarchate rather than try to correct them, and they decided to excommunicate me, to cut me off from the Brotherhood of the Holy Sepulchre and to expel me from the country. Of course this does not mean that I am going to stop fighting for the improvement of the situation here or that I am going to leave the country. Also, I would like to ask you to continue your efforts to affect the change and the reorganization of the Patriarchate, no matter what. I am sure you understand that it is imperative that we all work to save this great inheritance entrusted to us by the Divine Providence. . .

The Bishop continues to conduct Pilgrimage tours even though he is vulnerable at this time. He is determined to stand up for righteousness on these very sensitive and complex religious matters that we discovered on our recent tour to the Holy Land.

In closing, happy memories. . .happy holidays to you and your family.

Best wishes,

Alice O. Kopan
OCL Pilgrimage Coordinator

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