

Fr. Theophan Whitfield
DMin Project
SURVEY FOR FIELD WORK

Project Title. The Servant Parish Project: Strengthening Our Ministry to the Poor and Suffering.
New Model of Ministry. The Five C's: Communicate, Connect, Comfort, Correct, Chrismate.

Focus of the survey questions To explore and quantify the following among Orthodox Christians: (1) basic attitudes toward social action, (2) sources of personal beliefs about social action, and (3) actual and potential sources of motivation for increasing personal involvement in social action. Also, the survey will provide an opportunity to harvest more ministry ideas and additional local stories of ministry successes and failures.

[The content of the questionnaire begins here.]

(REQUIRED)

- + Which best describes your role in the Orthodox Church?
 - Bishop, Priest, or Deacon
 - Lay member (including Subdeacons and Readers)
 - I am not an Orthodox Christian

- + Age:

- + Gender:

- + Which of the following best describes you as a member of the Orthodox Church?
 - I was born into an Orthodox Christian family, and baptized as a child.
 - I was received into the Orthodox Church from another Christian tradition.
 - I was received into the Orthodox Church as an adult or teenager, but was never part of another Christian tradition.
 - I am presently a Catechumen, preparing to be received into the Orthodox Church.
 - I am presently considering whether I would like to become a Catechumen

- + Which of the following best describes how often you attend worship at an Orthodox Church?
 - Mostly weekly
 - Mostly monthly
 - Only a few times a year
 - Almost never

(The following questions are OPTIONAL)

- + Your name:
 - + Your Orthodox jurisdiction:
 - + Parish name and location:
 - + Your email address, or other contact information:
-

1. In the last twelve (12) months, which of the following have you supported, participated in, or volunteered for, either inside or outside your parish? Click all that apply.

- a) Food drives to support local food pantries
- b) Clothing drives
- c) Soup kitchens or other means of providing meals to others in need
- d) Homeless shelters
- e) Safe houses for women and children
- f) Hospital or hospice visitation
- g) Prison visitation or other inmate ministry
- h) Immigrant or refugee support
- i) Nursing home or "homebound" visitation
- j) Fundraising or donating to benefit a charity or non-profit
- k) Home-building/construction (for example, through Project Mexico or Habitat for Humanity)
- l) Neighborhood beautification
- m) Foster parenting
- n) Disaster relief (financial support)
- o) Disaster relief (collecting and assembling needed supplies)
- p) Disaster relief (onsite assistance, for example as a first-responder)
- q) Missionary support (for example, through the OCMC)
- r) Providing my professional services free of charge to low income clients
- s) Literacy training for adults
- t) Military family support
- u) Providing job-skill training to other adults (for example: computer skills, business skills, construction-related skills)
- v) Teaching English to non-English speakers
- w) Community health-screening events
- x) Community wellness education
- y) Community garden programs
- z) Mentoring local youth
- aa) Relationship-building in the community
- bb) Transportation for elderly or others in need
- cc) Homework support & tutoring for school children

- dd) Gang violence prevention/intervention
- ee) Microfinancing
- ff) Sewing or quilting ministries (for example, to assist parish elderly, or to support a local hospital)
- gg) Translation services for those who do not speak English

2. In the last twelve (12) months, have you voiced public support for any issue of personal importance to you, in either the “secular/public” sphere, or more specifically within “ecclesial/church” circles?

Examples of public support in the “secular/public” sphere include (1) directly communicating with government officials, (2) attending rallies or marches, (3) composing editorials or articles for general circulation, or (4) giving a speech or presentation to a general audience.

Examples of public support within “ecclesial/church” circles include (1) publishing editorials, articles, or blog posts in any forum (online or otherwise) with a dedicated focus on faith and religion; (2) giving speeches or presentations in a church setting; or (3) leading or teaching in a class in the parish. (Sermons given by clergy fall into this category.)

Check all columns and rows that apply. And if you feel that an example of your participation falls simultaneously into both the “secular” and the “ecclesial” categories, then please check both.

	Secular/Public	Ecclesial/Church
a) Hunger and poverty issues		
b) Housing issues		
c) Healthcare and health insurance issues		
d) Race relation issues		
e) Environmental issues		
f) Domestic violence issues		
g) Labor issues		
h) Veterans issues		
i) Immigrant or refugee support		
j) War and peace issues		
k) Human trafficking issues		
l) Addiction and recovery issues		
m) Pregnancy crisis issues		
n) Mental health issues		
o) Other: _____		

3. How important is it for an Orthodox Christian to be actively involved in serving the poor and suffering?

- Very Important
- Important
- Moderately Important
- Slightly Important
- Not Important

4. How important is it for Orthodox clergy to preach and teach on topics related to wealth and poverty?

- Very Important
- Important
- Moderately Important
- Slightly Important
- Not Important

5. How important are the following to your beliefs about ministry to the poor and suffering:

- Not Important
- Slightly Important
- Moderately Important
- Important
- Very Important

[Note to the IRB: each of the following will have the above Likert scale responses.]

- a) The Prophets of the Old Testaments
- b) Christ's Parable of the Sheep and the Goats (Matt 25:31-46)
- c) Christ's encounter with the rich young man (Matthew 19:16-30, Mark 10:17-31, Luke 18:18-30)
- d) Other Scripture: _____
- e) Examples from the lives of the saints
- f) Teachings of Saint John Chrysostom
- g) Teachings of Saint Basil the Great
- h) Teachings of other Church Fathers or Mothers: _____
- i) Your participation in the Divine Liturgy
- j) Orthodox iconography

- k) Learning about the work of Orthodox humanitarian organizations (Such as FOCUS North America, or the IOCC)
- l) Learning about the work of missionaries through the OCMC
- m) Learning about the work of monasteries who assist the poor
- n) Learning about the work of other Orthodox parishes who assist the poor
- o) The Roman Catholic Social Justice tradition
- p) Sermons by parish clergy
- q) (For adult converts.) The catechism I received.
- r) Books and articles by Orthodox writers on justice
- s) Video or podcast lectures by Orthodox Christians on the internet
- t) Adult study classes at my parish
- u) Encouragement from fellow members of my parish
- v) My parents and extended family
- w) College courses or professors
- x) Events or figures from the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s
- y) Personal relationships I have with the poor and suffering
- z) Personal conscience
- aa) Social media platforms such as FaceBook or Instagram
- bb) Sense of guilt
- cc) General sense of gratitude and a desire to give back
- dd) Other: _____

6. Do you agree with the following statements?

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree Nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

[Note to the IRB: each of the following will have the above Likert scale responses.]

- a) Orthodox clergy should encourage the faithful to take an active role in the community on issues related to poverty, homelessness, and hunger.
- b) Understanding and meeting the needs of the poor and suffering are very important to the identity of Orthodox Christians.
- c) Orthodox bishops do not need to make outreach to the poor and suffering a priority for the parishes in his diocese.
- d) An Orthodox parish must first achieve financial stability before it should establish ministries to the poor and needy.
- e) Orthodox Christians have an obligation to live simply and to give away any income that remains after paying for basic needs.

- f) Orthodox parishes are not successfully ministering to those Christ calls “the least of these my brethren” in the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats (Matthew 25:31-46).
- g) When asked to provide assistance, I am more likely to help someone I know, and less likely to help someone who is a stranger to me.
- h) It is easy for me to find opportunities in my community to serve the poor and needy.
- i) The Orthodox Christian tradition does not provide clear teachings on topics related to justice, war, and poverty.
- j) My local town or city is a better place because of the work done by my parish to help those in need.
- k) Regardless of overall financial health, Orthodox parishes should give away at least 10% of their annual income to charity each year.
- l) Each Orthodox parish should strive to build up a substantial endowment (that is, invested savings) for the purpose of paying bills relating to maintenance, repair, and capital improvements.

7. Would the following lead you to increase your financial giving and volunteer service in support of ministries that assist those whom Christ calls “the least of these my brethren” in the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats (Matthew 25:31-46)?

- Very Unlikely
- Not Likely
- Neutral
- Likely
- Very Likely

[Note to the IRB: each of the following will have the above Likert scale responses.]

- a) More frequent sermons by parish clergy on wealth, poverty, and injustice.
- b) Pastoral letters (encyclicals) and direct appeals from my jurisdiction’s Holy Synod of Bishops on wealth, poverty, and injustice.
- c) Invitations from friends to join them as volunteers.
- d) Clear, compelling online podcasts or lectures on pressing social issues from an Orthodox perspective.
- e) Learning more about how poverty, addiction, and violence affects families and children in my community.
- f) Meeting people at my parish who struggle with poverty, addiction, and violence.
- g) Presentations at Church by representatives from local non-profit organizations that clearly explain how my volunteer service can help those in need.
- h) A parish retreat, led by an invited speaker, on the topic of “justice and the local Orthodox parish” from an Orthodox perspective.

- i) The news that your parish is in extreme financial distress and faces the possibility of closing in the next few years.
- j) New publications or journals from an Orthodox perspective dedicated to the history, theology, and practice of ministry to the poor and suffering.

8. Do you have an experience of serving others that you would like to share? The experience can be either positive or negative. Is there a form of ministry or compassionate outreach at your parish that excites you? In the space below, please provide a brief description.

9. Thank you for taking the time to respond to this survey. If you grant permission to the researcher to contact you for a brief follow-up interview, please check the box below and provide your preferred contact information.

+ Yes

+ Your preferred contact information: