

## ON THE ORTHODOX FRONTLINE

*(continued from front page)*

My parish of St. Elijah Antiochian Orthodox Church in Oklahoma City has been blessed by the process of establishing a team and becoming a Homefront parish.

I thank God for IOCC. It is really the best example of where Orthodoxy in the US is succeeding. The organization provides the means by which each of us can tangibly minister to “the least of these.” I encourage you to continue supporting IOCC both fiscally and through its volunteer ministries.

Rev. Fr. Raphael K. Barberg  
St. Elijah Antiochian Orthodox Church  
Oklahoma City, OK

*If you wish to contribute a reflection to the next Priest to Priest, please email [rloumiotis@iocc.org](mailto:rloumiotis@iocc.org).*



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## IOCC SUNDAY: A DAY OF SHARING | November 19, 2017

Each year on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, Orthodox faithful across the US thank God for the privilege of serving the least of our brethren through IOCC. The Assembly of Bishops has named it *A Day of Sharing*. On this day, we consider IOCC's global work and the ways you sustain it: by providing food, water, shelter and medicine to refugees, offering economic opportunity to farmers in northern Greece, training healthcare workers in Ethiopia, and so much more. Please consider giving a gift of compassion today.



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# Priest to Priest

*Fall/Winter 2017*

## ON THE ORTHODOX FRONTLINE

*This issue's reflection comes from Rev. Fr. Raphael K. Barberg, IOCC Frontliner and priest at St. Elijah Antiochian Orthodox Church in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.*

Often when a disaster strikes somewhere, our conscience is pinged; we know God wants us to help. We know “our brother is our life.” But what to do? IOCC is quite often the answer to that question. It is not just an organization that exists to assuage our pricked consciences. It is not just an abyss into which we throw money to feel better about ourselves. IOCC is literally the Divine Energy working with and through our own human energy, as the Body of Christ continues Our Lord's ministry to a hurting world in need of Christ's compassion.

I have seen this for myself firsthand, having served those suffering and in need in such places as Manhattan, NY; Blacksburg, VA; and most recently, Houston, TX, in the aftermath of manmade and natural disasters. In each of those situations, the Orthodox Church and its clergy and people have responded and seen tangible results through the loving application of the God-given resources at our disposal. This is because of IOCC's presence as a conduit for the compassionate use of God's gifts to us.

IOCC does this in directing our fiscal resources to where they can do the most good, directing our energies through the production of health kits and clean-up buckets, and directing our people as they volunteer at disaster scenes, both immediately afterward and in long-term rebuilding efforts.

I personally am blessed to be a part of the Orthodox Frontline, which comprises scores of priests, deacons, and laypeople trained to provide spiritual and emotional care amidst disaster and who work to serve affected communities. It was my privilege to play this role in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, which marked IOCC's largest deployment to date of Frontliners.

Now IOCC is furthering the cause of disaster care by building up the Orthodox Homefront, a program preparing our parishes to do the work of planning before disasters strike, so as to be efficient in responding to local disasters, supporting regional and national efforts. Each participating parish will form a Disaster Preparedness and Response Ministry Team to assess parish resources (both human and material), to network with other local churches and voluntary organizations, and to train their membership to help their communities in times of crisis and catastrophe.

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A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION FOR ORTHODOX CLERGY

*From the clergy of the IOCC Board of Directors:*

*His Eminence Archbishop Nicolae, Very Rev. Fr. Leonid Kishkovsky, Rev. Fr. Luke Palumbis, Very Reverend Fr. Nicholas Triantafylou*





*IOCC volunteer teams help clear debris from homes in the Houston area in the wake of Hurricane Harvey.*

# IOCC Relief at Home and Abroad

One way to give thanks to our Lord for his many blessings is to “pay it forward.” The work of IOCC includes teaching others skills to help the least of their brethren in their own communities, which multiplies the reach of this ministry in the US and around the world.

## ETHIOPIA

Introducing curricula on wheelchair services to healthcare practitioners so they can better serve people with mobility challenges.



## GAZA

Offering internships to young workers so they can gain new skills and help their employers serve more people.



## GREECE

Helping farming and fishing co-ops increase productivity so they can help local soup kitchens, orphanages, and more.



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