

Standing in the Spaces Between *(continued)*

Their work is to offer relief, but that relief has no source unless IOCC stands between the reality of war, famine, and other suffering, and then presents that reality to us and to our people. Then our people can in turn respond and, through IOCC, represent God's love in our support.

May our liminal work in the holy priesthood and the liminal work of IOCC continue as expressions of He who bridges the greatest divides of all: our Lord Jesus Christ, who joined divinity to humanity, and who brought life into the very depths of death, leading us to Salvation in Him who unites all things.

V. Rev. Michael Nasser, Pastor
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IOCC EVENTS & PRESENTATIONS

- Oct 20: Baltimore, MD – Baltimore Running Festival
- Oct 20: Dallas, TX – Evening to Benefit IOCC
- Oct 21: Philadelphia, PA – 7th Annual Benefit Banquet
- Oct 27: Charlotte, NC – Evening to Benefit IOCC
- Oct 27: Wilmington, NC – Greek Taverna Night
- Nov 3: Palos Heights, IL – St. Spyridon Walk
- Nov 11: St. Louis, MO – 16th Annual IOCC Banquet
- Nov 11: Los Angeles, CA – Dinner and Presentation
- Nov 18: Falls Church, VA – Coffee Hour



SAVE THE DATE
IOCC Sunday
Nov. 18, 2018

ANNOUNCE
IOCC Sunday

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we serve

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More info available at ioccc.org/dayofsharing

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Standing in the Spaces Between

A Reflection on Priesthood and Service

Fr. Michael Nasser

I like the word *liminal* – not only the sound of it, but the fact that it means nothing like the more common words that it sounds like: *minimal* or *limited*. I'll save those of you unfamiliar with the word a trip to dictionary.com by saying that *liminal* means "in between." It's space that doesn't pertain exactly to either of the sides it's between. In many ways, it describes the holy priesthood that you and I share. It's been said that a priest stands before God for all of his people, and before his people for God.

Part of the priesthood's "liminal ministry" is making the truth from one side heard clearly on the other. Obviously, God doesn't need us to explain anything to Him about His people, but we certainly stand before Him interceding for them. The other half of our ministry is bringing the truth, teachings, and even the presence of God to our people, who – incredible as it may seem – are made more aware of Him by our unworthy efforts. Through sermons, classes, chats with our teens or other parish groups, and in very special ways in holy confession and spiritual direction, we reveal the truth of the Living God to His people, sharing in His ministry to them. With our priesthood joined to the very High Priesthood of Jesus Christ through the hierarchs we represent, this liminal ministry can be spoken of, with all due humility, the same way that Christ's ministry was described: "God has visited His people."

This is a great responsibility, but a heavy one. It's an honor, but one that brings trepidation. The only thing that can keep us from either pride or terror in understanding the liminality of the holy priesthood is that, in fact, it all belongs to Christ. There really is nothing to "our" priesthood unless "our" priesthood is an exercise of His. It is not ours to be terrified of or from which to gain any false sense of self-satisfaction.

IOCC's work is an important part of the Church's ministry, fulfilling the divine call to serve the least of our Lord's brethren. In many ways it is also liminal ministry. You and I have rarely witnessed war and natural disaster firsthand, but those who serve directly with IOCC see this every day.

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