

Giving Ourselves in Service *(continued)*

We have always spoken about service and outreach in our home. But this IOCC experience gave my daughter and me a unique perspective on how our Church can be a healing presence in a hurting world.

IOCC has impacted my family's life in a special way, and I thank our Lord for their loving presence. Their programs, outreach opportunities, and mission are exactly what our Church and this world needs.

Brothers: IOCC is the real thing! As priests, we have the most awesome responsibility of serving before the altar of our Lord ... truly a blessing. IOCC allows us to serve outside the four walls of our church.

With brotherly love in the New Year,

Fr. Mark Leondis, Pastor
St. Mark Greek Orthodox Church
Boca Raton, FL

*If you wish to contribute a reflection
to the next issue of Priest to Priest,
please email rloumiotis@iocc.org*

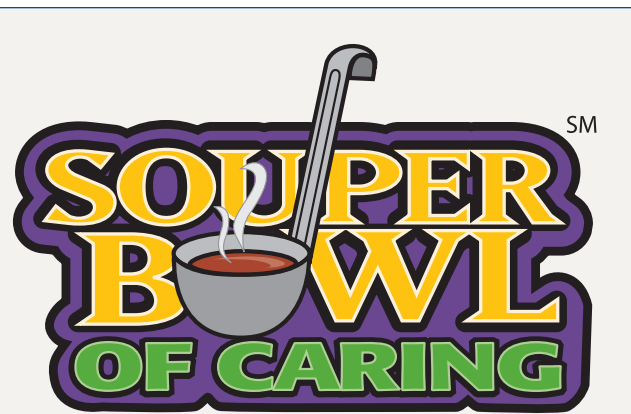


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IOCC EVENTS & PRESENTATIONS

- **February 2, 2019: Milwaukee, WI** – IOCC Tailgate and Game Night
- **February 9, 2019: Pittsburgh, PA** – International Soup Sampling & Health Kit Assembly
- **February 9, 2019: Bergenfield, NJ** – Wine Tasting to Benefit IOCC
- **February 28, 2019: Cleveland, OH** – Wine Tasting to Benefit IOCC
- **April 13, 2019: Denver, CO** – IOCC Awareness Dinner



iocc.org/souperbowl
Sunday, Feb. 3, 2019

**FATHERS: PLEASE DISPLAY THE POSTER
ON REVERSE IN YOUR PARISH**



PRIEST *to* PRIEST

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION FOR ORTHODOX CLERGY

Winter 2019



Giving Ourselves in Service

The Church's Healing Presence | Fr. Mark Leondis

My dear brothers,

Ever since my daughter was a child, she's heard stories of family members and others on mission and service projects. In 2017, my then 16-year-old daughter informed me that she would be attending an IOCC homebuild in Nassau, the Bahamas, over the summer. She continued that because she was not 18, a parent would need to accompany her on this short-term service project. Needless to say, the day we concluded summer camp, we were on a flight to Nassau to meet our team.

It was indeed a special week of service, outreach, and giving of ourselves to others. We completely replaced a roof of a family home which had been destroyed by a hurricane a year earlier; we spent time preparing meals to feed over 1,000 people in need; we were given an awesome opportunity to give of ourselves.



IOCC volunteers help rebuild homes damaged or destroyed by disasters.

*Brothers:
IOCC is the
real thing!*

Serving the Lord is perhaps the greatest joy we can experience on this earth. Giving of ourselves to others is not only heart-warming; it is our call. But sometimes, we forget the unseen blessings of service to others.

As priests, we have so many different responsibilities, and they differ from day to day, hour to hour. We spend countless hours in personal prayer, counseling, consoling, celebrating sacraments, comforting the families of the deceased, preparing eulogies, visiting the sick and elderly, preaching, counseling married couples – to name a few. Then there are the administrative tasks of correspondence, raising funds, overseeing stewardship, the building, newsletters, and attending innumerable meetings.

Of course, we also must make difficult and unfavorable decisions, hear complaints and confessions, pray for those who dislike us, bear the burdens and often the hurts of the flock, and try to keep the Body of Christ united in love, leading them to the Kingdom.

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