

YOUR SUPPORT AT WORK



ETHIOPIA: The 196,000 Sudanese refugees who escaped violent civil conflict in their country now face a new threat in Ethiopia. IOCC is working to stem the spread of disease in overcrowded, unsanitary camps with new sanitation facilities and hygiene care supplies.



SYRIA: As the security and humanitarian situation in Idlib, Syria, continues to deteriorate, IOCC with Syria church partner, the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and All the East (GOPA), is providing emergency medical aid and hygiene kits to displaced Idlib families who have fled to the Syrian port city of Lattakia.



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IOCC EVENTS & PRESENTATIONS

- **Sunday, April 19 – Philadelphia, PA**
4th Annual Benefit Banquet for IOCC
Adelphia Restaurant
- **Thursday, April 30, 2015 – Chicago, IL**
Annual Pan-Orthodox Grand Banquet
Cafe La Cave
- **Monday, May 11, 2015 – Cleveland, OH**
23rd Annual IOCC Benefit
- **Sunday, May 17, 2015 – Grand Rapids, MI**
IOCC Relief for the Syrian Crisis
St. Nicholas Cultural Center

**FATHERS: PLEASE DISPLAY THE
INSIDE POSTER IN YOUR PARISH**



RACE TO RESPOND

Are you a runner, cyclist, or triathlete?
Are you participating in an athletic
event and want to Race To Respond to
those in need around the world?

Join Team IOCC at racetorespond.org



INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES

PRIEST to PRIEST

Spring 2015

Become ... even as your Father is

As the very creation of God, human beings have been destined for something greater than our human existence – we have been made according to the “image and likeness” of God. (*Genesis 1:26*) For this reason, in spite of our inherent imperfections, we are always looking for ways in which to improve ourselves. We do this in different ways: some work to become better thinkers; others consider that their goal is to improve their craftsmanship; and still others look to improve their physical health and well-being.

Even in the Church we are encouraged to train, exercise, and improve both our physical and spiritual existence. And we do this by means of fasting and prayer. We fast from physical excess so that we do not hinder the growth of prayer and godliness in our lives. In fact, it is in Scripture that the Lord tells us the true goal of human life: “...become perfect...even as your Father in heaven is perfect.” (*Matthew 5:48*)

Yes, we are called to become like God. In a world filled with stereotypes of false heroes, we are called to model our Lord, who offered Himself as a ransom and sacrifice for all. It means that all the qualities of God are for us to emulate. Just as God is the One who has given every blessing, we too are called upon to be givers of blessings – to the hungry, food; to the lost, direction; to the homeless, shelter; to those who do not know God, His face through our own faces of love, compassion, and forgiveness.

My beloved people of God, we are called



upon to make a difference in the lives of others. We may start in our own homes and communities, but we are called upon to make a difference throughout the world. God bless IOCC and all who support this effort to help make all of us “perfect...as our Father in heaven is.”

*His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas of Detroit
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America*

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 Triantafilou*

IOCC *in* JORDAN

Since 2005, IOCC has provided medical and education support to impoverished Jordanian families as well as humanitarian relief to refugees living in Jordan.

Health and Wellness

Providing Syrian refugee school children and their Jordanian classmates with hygiene care kits like those prepared by Orthodox Christians through IOCC's kit program and anti-lice medication to help keep them healthy as they learn and grow.



photos by Tiziana Cauli/IOCC



Emergency Relief

The swell of refugees into Jordan has strained the country's resources. IOCC is responding to their urgent needs with food, bedding, and clothing for refugees as well as vulnerable Jordanians.



Education Support

Helping Syrian refugees and Jordanian children succeed in school by providing kits filled with essential supplies like paper, pencils, and rulers provided through the IOCC kit program.

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