

IOCC cordially invites you to our
**20th ANNIVERSARY
 CELEBRATION GALA**

Tuesday, May 8, 2012

Capital Hilton Hotel • Washington, D.C.
 Cocktail Reception 6:00PM • Dinner 7:30PM



www.iocc.org/20thanniversary

**INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX
 CHRISTIAN CHARITIES**
Respond. Rebuild. Uplift.

IOCC Upcoming Events

More details at www.iocc.org/events.

- **Chicago, IL** – January 28, 2012
 Wine Tasting Fundraiser
 The Cubby Bear
 1059 W. Addison, Chicago, IL
- **Louisville, KY** – February 10, 2012
 Chili for Charity
 St. Michael Orthodox Church
 3701 St. Michael Drive
- **Denver, CO** – February 18, 2012
 IOCC Dinner
 Assumption of the
 Theotokos Greek Cathedral
 4610 East Alameda Avenue
- **Durham, NC** – March 4, 2012
 Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers
 and Lenten Supper
 St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Church
 8306 NC Highway 751

**PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW MAILING
 ADDRESS FOR DONATIONS:**

IOCC
 P.O. Box 17398
 Baltimore, MD 21297-0429

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Baltimore, Maryland 21204 • USA

INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES



INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES

PRIEST to PRIEST

MAKING THE GOSPEL ALIVE THROUGH IOCC

VOLUME 13, NO. 1 WINTER 2012

Our Lord's most powerful and important message can be found in Matthew 25:31-46. In relating the Parable of the Last Judgment, Christ vividly illustrates what criteria will be used when "...He shall come again in glory to judge the living and the dead." Simply put, our eternal fate will one day be determined by how we respond to the basic human needs of others. Indeed, we are called upon by our Savior to feed those who are hungry, to offer drink to those who are thirsty, to offer clothing to those who have none and to visit and offer comfort to the ill and imprisoned. He emphatically reminds us that when we do these things for the least of His brethren, it is as if we have acted charitably towards our Master Himself.



Two young boys welcome small gifts and kind words from an Ethiopian Orthodox monk visiting their orphanage in Asela. Since 2005, IOCC has provided assistance to more than 14,000 orphans in Ethiopia, many of whom lost their parents to AIDS.

For twenty years now, International Orthodox Christian Charities—IOCC—has based its very existence on following Christ's words in this Gospel lesson. IOCC has been a global organization, responding to emergency situations throughout the world as well as obediently heeding our Lord's command to feed, clothe, comfort and teach. The impact of IOCC has been seen in the remote villages of Africa, the war-torn region of Bosnia and the streets of New Orleans, to name just a few places that have seen IOCC in action. Whenever a helping hand has been needed, IOCC has been there to extend it.

It must be pointed out, however, that IOCC is largely dependent upon the generosity of the faithful members of our parish communities. It is only through their sacrifices and labors that IOCC has been able to accomplish so much over the course of the past two decades.

As the spiritual leaders of our individual churches, it is the responsibility of the clergy to encourage our

members to continue, and even increase their support of IOCC. We must share with them any news of this fine apostolate of the Church and keep them informed of any appeal that IOCC may be making. It is also imperative that we make it clear that IOCC needs volunteer assistance to do their work, not just monetary aid. Being a parish representative or a member of a Metropolitan Committee are some of the ways our people can "connect" with IOCC.

Can we call upon all of our clergy to play a leading role in promoting the work of IOCC? If we are enthused about the exciting and life-changing work of International Orthodox Christian Charities, our faithful will be as well.

Fr. Michael Rosco

Father Michael Rosco

FATHERS: PLEASE DISPLAY THE INSIDE POSTER IN YOUR PARISH

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION FOR ORTHODOX CLERGY

From the clergy of the IOCC Board of Directors:

Very Rev. Michael Ellias, Rev. Luke Palumbis, Very Rev. Michael Rosco, Very Rev. Leonid Kishkovsky

RACE TO RESPOND



Are you a runner, cyclist, or triathlete? Are you participating in an athletic event and want to race to respond to the needs of those in need around the world? Now you can by participating in the IOCC Race to Respond program! By fundraising while competing in an event, you can make a difference in the lives of those affected by manmade and natural disasters.
www.iocc.org/racetorespond

"For the poor shall never cease out of the land: therefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt open thine hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to thy needy, in thy land." — Deuteronomy 15:11

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HELPING REBUILD LIVES AND HOPE FOR IRAQI REFUGEE FAMILIES

The growing violence in Iraq has made many families desperate to flee to Syria with little money, a few possessions, and no job prospects. The huge influx of more than one million Iraqi refugees has put an enormous strain on Syria's ability to provide basic services such as access to education and healthcare. As their meager savings dry up these vulnerable families face poverty and more hardship. The need to be self-sufficient is critical to their survival.

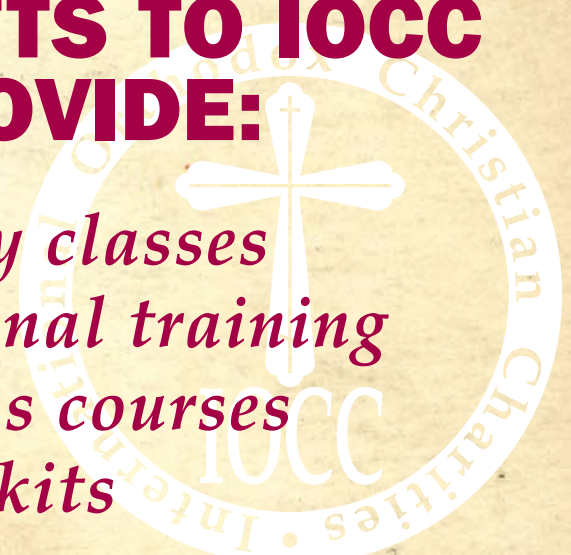


Through your financial support and a grant from the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration, IOCC is working in cooperation with the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and All the East (GOPA) to provide Iraqi refugees with vocational training such as sewing, hair styling and computer maintenance as well as instruction necessary to run a business. Your ongoing support ensures that these struggling families can not only provide for their children today, but can offer them a future of hope instead of helplessness.



YOUR GIFTS TO IOCC HELP PROVIDE:

- ★ *Literacy classes*
- ★ *Vocational training*
- ★ *Business courses*
- ★ *School kits*



By extending your heart and your hand, you help create a fresh start for Iraqi refugee families who have lost everything.

INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES

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