

## YOUR SUPPORT AT WORK



**SYRIA:** IOCC is providing crisis counseling for Syrian people traumatized by war. For the adults, that means guided group discussions, while children find their voice through art and music activities.



**ETHIOPIA:** More than 10 million people in Ethiopia need food and water due to drought. IOCC is responding with better access to clean water and feed for distressed livestock.



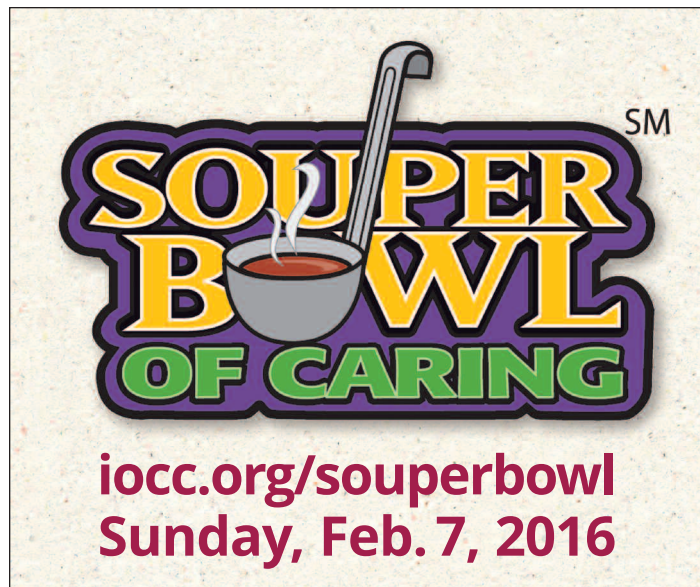
**INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES**  
110 West Road  
Suite 360  
Baltimore, Maryland 21204 • USA

Presorted Nonprofit  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Portland, OR  
Permit No. 1006

## IOCC EVENTS & PRESENTATIONS

- **Saturday, January 23, 2016** – Atlanta, GA  
Vigil Service & IOCC Reception  
St. Mary of Egypt Orthodox Church
- **Saturday, January 30, 2016** – Milwaukee, WI  
Milwaukee Tailgate and Celebrate 2016  
Annunciation Cultural Center
- **Sunday, February 28, 2016** – Pittsburgh, PA  
Dinner with Wine Pairings  
Uptown – Rooftop Restaurant & Lounge
- **Sunday, April 17, 2016** – Pittsburgh, PA  
Syrian Relief Dinner and Prayer Service for IOCC

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



INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES

# PRIEST *to* PRIEST

Winter 2016

## On Violence and the Cross

The world stood in shock recently when violence shattered Paris, one of the most charming cities of the world. A few days before Paris, Beirut, once a jewel of the Mediterranean, experienced similar attacks leaving tens of people dead and several injured.

It seems all we hear about is violence. We hear people weeping: Children for their mothers; mothers for their children; husbands for their wives; siblings weeping, and the list goes on. We recall the prophecy of Jeremiah: *A voice is heard in Ramah, mourning and great weeping, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because her children are no more.* There is so much sorrow in the world, sometimes more than we can truly bear. Who will comfort us?

Amidst all this sorrow stands the cross of Christ stretched out to embrace the entire world. Once an instrument of torture and death, it is now a symbol of victory and a refuge for those seeking comfort. In the cross of Jesus Christ we experience an empathetic God who suffers alongside of us. There, on a hill, stripped naked and killed is God suffering so that when we suffer, as we will through all that life brings us, we are not alone in knowing that God who loves has been there too. We learn to see God not only in the beauty of nature but also in the faces of the suffering of the world.

The people of IOCC, a Christian Orthodox charitable organization, see God in the faces of the suffering of the world. They are mobilized in all the devastated areas of the world to give shelter to the displaced and bring food to the hungry. Instead of the vinegar that the soldiers give Christ when He cries on the cross "I thirst", they give fresh water to cool the lips of those who are thirsting under the desert sun. They put their lives in danger to help those who run away from danger.

May God bless this ministry of the Church so that "your light may so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

*Bishop Alexander  
Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese*

**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 Triantafyllou*



Christian families gather to witness the launch of an Orthodox elementary school rehabilitation project in Homs, Syria. photo by DERD/IOCC



# IOCC RELIEF FOR GREECE

Since 2012, IOCC, in cooperation with Apostoli – the humanitarian arm of the Church of Greece; Greek national ministries, and the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, has provided more than **\$23 million in relief** for people affected by the country's economic crisis.

## Economic Development

Supporting 24 small business coops with funding for equipment and tools needed to succeed.



IOCC/Apostoli

## Medical Support

More than \$16 million in supplies and equipment shipped to 50 public hospitals and clinics.



IOCC/Apostoli

## Food Assistance

Feeding more than 9,000 people a month through soup kitchens, dry food parcels, and grocery cards to buy fresh produce and dairy goods.



Eirini Vourliouris

## Winter Relief

Providing heating fuel for 32 state-run institutions housing Greece's elderly, disabled, and orphans.



IOCC/Apostoli



## INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES

Headquarters: 110 West Road, Suite 360 • Baltimore, MD 21204 USA

Tel: (410) 243-9820 • Toll Free: 1-877-803-IOCC (4622) • E-mail: [relief@iocc.org](mailto:relief@iocc.org) • Online: [iocc.org](http://iocc.org)