

“Whom Shall I Send?”

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hands can become Your hands. They become the hands to protect the vulnerable and the hands to lift up those who have fallen.

Our loving and compassionate Lord has called all of us to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, and visit the infirm and those in prison. That is exactly the response that IOCC gives worldwide every day – and for that, I am very thankful.

Your brother and concelebrant,

Fr. Stelios Sitaras, Pastor

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Galveston, Texas

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



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PRIEST *to* PRIEST

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Fall 2019

“Whom Shall I Send?”

Offering Our Work to the Lord

Fr. Stelios Sitaras

Dear brothers in the Lord,

I was blessed to be born into a family that made the Church a central part of daily life, and I am humbled to be involved with the tremendously needed work of IOCC.

One very great gift that I was given by my father, for which I am very thankful, is that he would gently guide me during difficult life decisions but allow me to make up my own mind even if he thought I was making a mistake. I am reminded of a conversation that we had when I was almost finished at Holy Cross Seminary. I was emotionally and physically drained from being a full-time student, working two part-time jobs, and taking care of my two wonderful toddler daughters. I was having doubts about even getting ordained. My father told me – and I remember it verbatim – he said, “Stelio, if you don’t become a priest, then who is going to be a priest?” What he was telling me is that he knew me and he loved me; he knew my strengths and he knew my weaknesses, and he was giving me the encouragement to realize that God called me to the priesthood and blessed me with the *phronema* (the proper mindset and outlook) to do the work of His people and His Church.

The prophesy of Isaiah 6:8 states the following: “And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’ Then I said, ‘Here am I! Send me.’” That is exactly how IOCC works in Our Lord’s vineyard. The dedicated staff and the tireless volunteers of IOCC are the ones who always respond to natural disasters and human suffering with “Send me.”

Send me, Lord, so that I can offer back to your people the gifts that you have so graciously and so abundantly given me. Send me, Lord, when every person I meet in a disaster is my sister and my brother, who is made in Your image and likeness, and who is hurting. Send me, Lord, so that my

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INVEST IN HER FUTURE.

Sarah* is a high-schooler in rural Uganda who loves chemistry, biology, and math. She plans to become a doctor, and she's one step closer now that IOCC has built a science lab at her school.

Your generosity creates opportunity for Sarah and her classmates – and for so many others around the world.

*pseudonym used

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