

Adaptability as Spiritual Discipline

continued from front cover

Jesus was often surrounded by the ones the world deemed “important,” “seen,” “influential.” He loved them too—He had come to call all to salvation, to point all to the Father, to offer healing to all. He had His task, but in this moment, as in many moments in His public ministry, He specifically notices the forgotten, the small, the unheard. Jesus is willing to be interrupted while at once being single minded in doing the will of the Father. He knows who He is at every moment, not blown about by circumstances around Him. He does not change; He is adaptable, and in this we are given an example as pastors to imitate.

Archpriest Joel Weir

St. Stephen the First Martyr Orthodox Church | Crawfordsville, Indiana



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

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PRIEST *to* PRIEST

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My first deployment as an IOCC Frontliner was in the summer of 2016. I was called to primarily help provide emergency spiritual care in the wake of a devastating flood that killed 23 people and displaced thousands in West Virginia. I had attended yearly Frontliner training for several years prior. Training provided good strategies, skills, and a wealth of information and resources. I remember some of the more veteran members of the Frontliner group, priests who had served as chaplains in times of crisis and disaster, instilling in us another critical component to the work—adaptability. In my first deployment I immediately realized how true this was, as my tasks varied each day, adapted to the needs of those we were serving.

The longer I’m a priest the more I realize that adaptability is actually a spiritual discipline. I’ve also found it to be connected to what the Fathers call *dispassion*. In other words, adaptability is the willingness to be interrupted while never losing focus. This discipline obviously does not apply just to crisis situations, but also to much of what we do as pastors. I also see adaptability exemplified by Our Lord in His ministry.

In the account of Jesus’ encounter with Jairus, our Lord focuses on one man’s plea to heal his daughter. He sets Himself toward this man’s house with a clear objective and goal. In the midst of this, with a crowd pressing Him, something remarkable happens. He notices one woman in need. He allows Himself to be interrupted while not losing focus.



Christ heals the woman with the issue of blood.

continued on back cover

IN MEMORY OF IOCC Co-Founder John G. Rangos Sr.

1929–2021

Leader, Visionary, Friend

May His Memory Be Eternal



INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES

Headquarters: 110 West Road, Suite 360 • Baltimore, MD 21204 USA
Tel: 410.243.9820 • Fax: 410.243.9824 • E-mail: relief@iocc.org • Website: iocc.org



Rebuilding Homes and Lives in Lebanon

Since last summer's devastating explosion, IOCC has been at work in Beirut. In addition to immediate emergency response, including medical care and hot meals, IOCC worked with St. George University Hospital to resume operations and has repaired hundreds of buildings: homes, small businesses, schools, health clinics, and a hospital—helping the people of Lebanon's capital rebuild their lives and communities.



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