

How Good and How Pleasant It Is continued from front cover

I wish to extend my love and prayers to all of the clergy connecting through this *Priest to Priest* newsletter. May our gracious Lord strengthen us to do His work, and may we stand together witnessing to His truth. When we unite together like we do through our efforts with IOCC, it helps invigorate us in our ministries – reminding us of the source of our strength.

But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint. – Isaiah 40:31.

Rev. Father Paul Thomas Paris, Presiding Priest
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral
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If you wish to contribute a reflection to the next issue of *Priest to Priest*, please email rloumiotis@iocc.org



PRIEST *to* PRIEST

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION FOR ORTHODOX CLERGY

Winter 2022



How Good and How Pleasant It Is

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! – Psalm 133:1

Rev. Father Paul Thomas Paris

We recently gathered for a Pan-Orthodox clergy meeting and lunch at the Serbian Orthodox Church where the new young priest and his parishioners showed us amazing hospitality. It warmed my heart to be welcomed by this young priest, and my prayers are with him because I have journeyed on the road he is now traveling.

It is important for us clergy to come together and support one another. We need each other. We have a local koinonia group which meets once a month for a chance to open up to each other about our lives and ministries. What a blessing!

IOCC is wonderful for so many reasons, but one of the great things about it is that it offers us a tremendous opportunity to work together as we unite to serve those in need. IOCC draws us together and can spark further pan-Orthodox cooperation and fellowship.

In working together to help others, we are helping ourselves because we are making connections and building relationships. In those areas where we are blessed to have a number of Orthodox parishes, this is a great way for us to all join forces. It is important for our young people to connect with other Orthodox Christians, and IOCC often provides the first opportunity for this kind of interaction because people can rally around helping those in need.

My family and I are thankful for the amazing work of IOCC and the way it has brought us closer to the Orthodox clergy and faithful of the Orthodox communities in the regions of the United States that we have been blessed to serve.



Priests serving together during an IOCC-OCF Real Break home build in Houston, Texas.

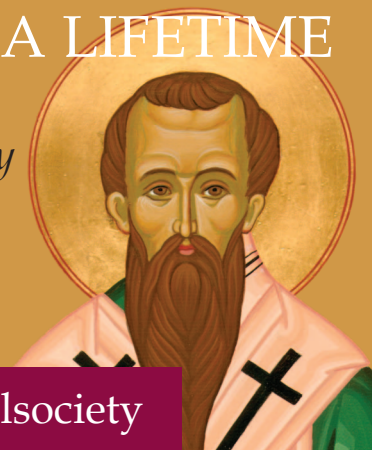
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Sunday, Feb. 13, 2022
iocc.org/souperbowl

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You Changed Her Life.

Habtam never imagined she'd find relief from the episodes of fever and chills, body aches—and a swelling on her right leg that never went away. Eventually, the itching and burning on that leg became unbearable, keeping her awake at nights. As her illness progressed, her husband left, and Habtam struggled to care for her three small children alone.

At an IOCC-supported clinic in rural Ethiopia, Habtam finally received a diagnosis for her condition—*podoconiosis*—and learned that it can be treated. She enrolled in the program right away. With self-care and proper treatment, Habtam's health improved dramatically, and now she has returned to productive life in her family and community.

This is the kind of impact you have when you give through IOCC. Together we reach around the world with Christ's love. Thank you.

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