

“Thine own of Thine own ...” *continued from front cover*

its end but is sacramental. In the strict sense of the term, there are seven sacraments—material things used as means of spiritual/mystical sanctification. In the broad sense of the term, however, nearly everything in the world can be sacramental, for all of God’s creation can be made a means of leading us to Christ and His kingdom. We can use our possessions, our talents, and those of our parish communities as sacramentals, recalling the words from the Eucharistic Canon: “*Thine own of Thine own; we offer unto Thee, on behalf of all and for all!*” Let us make the effort to use the whole creation, that it may become sanctified for Christ’s glory and honor.

Archpriest Myron D. Manzuk

Retired (Attached to St. Mary’s Orthodox Cathedral, Minneapolis, MN)



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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

Spring 2022

“Thine own of Thine own; we offer unto Thee, on behalf of all and for all!”

A Reflection by Archpriest Myron D. Manzuk

I am greatly honored to be asked to submit a *Priest to Priest* reflection—but not surprised, since I was assigned to a parish in Baltimore and also Chancellor of the Diocese of Washington (OCA) in 1992 when IOCC was established. My wife Paula worked for IOCC until we moved, and my son Gregory has worked for IOCC in various capacities for 20+ years. It is an agency to which I feel very connected.

In a world darkened by human suffering and political strife, I can recall the excitement generated in those early days by the possibility of a unified American Orthodox response to people suffering in a variety of countries: particularly victims of political conflicts and natural disasters. IOCC gave us the ability to transcend parochialism and to extend the reach of the Church’s love and mercy for which we pray at every liturgical service, bringing signs of God’s presence to conflict-devastated places like Serbia, Georgia, and presently, Ukraine and its neighbors—sometimes amid grave danger. This I know because Greg was stationed in several such places.

IOCC has developed into an efficient and effective charity that uses wisely the dollars you and your flock donate. In addition, its leadership has developed partnerships with like-minded organizations and submits grant applications to institutional donors to expand the reach of our individual donations. While IOCC remains a relatively small organization, its accomplishments are significant and make an impact. Other agencies are willing to partner with IOCC sometimes because we are already established in the target area, sometimes because we share the same faith, or sometimes because we are sensitive to the culture of those being assisted ... or all of the above.

After being a priest for 50 years, it seems to me that our support of IOCC to lessen the ills of humanity and to reduce disease is not an end in itself, but rather a means to an end. Our support is not absolute in

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