

St. Ephraim and the Jesus Prayer *continued from front cover*

Saying the Jesus Prayer is an act of love and service and allows us to do so much for others with very little effort. It is a most important way whereby we can support IOCC and all those the organization serves!

In Christ’s love and service,

+Fr. Photios Dumont, Protopresbyter
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If you wish to contribute a reflection to the next issue of Priest to Priest, please email rloumiotis@iocc.org



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"Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on your servants!"



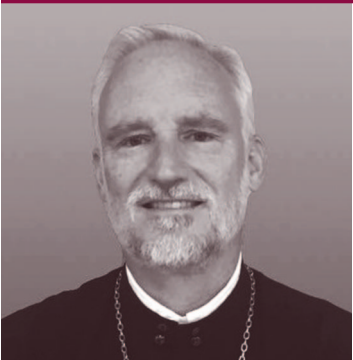
PRIEST *to* PRIEST

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St. Ephraim and the Jesus Prayer

A Reflection by Fr. Photios Dumont



Many years ago while serving as a priest in Greece, I heard a miraculous story about St. Ephraim of Katounakia (+1996, February 27), who was still alive at that time. Katounakia is a region on Mt. Athos known for its extreme climate and topography. St. Ephraim used to pray every morning for an hour or so for all the schoolchildren who were going to and from school. He would use his prayer rope and go from one knot to the next saying the prayer, “Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on your servants!”

One day, a group of children were in downtown Thessaloniki at a street corner, awaiting a school bus. One of the kids was goofing around and lost his balance—and accidentally stepped out into the street.

At that very moment, a large mass-transit bus was passing by, and everyone thought that the boy had been run over. After the bus had passed, to everyone’s surprise, the boy was standing across the street at the opposite corner. When the light changed, he came back across the street to his friends. Everyone was in tears and disbelief, and asked him what had happened. He said, “I don’t know... I stepped into the street, and the next moment a monk picked me up and placed me across the street.” That monk was St. Ephraim of Katounakia.

IOCC does amazing work throughout the world and needs our support. Most of us as priests are unable to leave our parishes and serve with IOCC as Frontliners. One thing that we can do, however, is pray for the survivors in any disaster and to also pray for those who are attending to their immediate needs and well-being.

Due to our demanding schedules, we might not have time to do a Paraklesis or an Akathist service for those who are hurting and those serving them. However, the example of St. Ephraim shows us that simply saying the Jesus Prayer for others has tremendous impact.

What is so wonderful about the Jesus Prayer is that we can say it in almost any circumstance throughout our day. What is amazing, too, is that God never says no to this prayer. He always sends grace to those we are praying for.

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ST. EPHRAIM OF KATOUNAKIA
*Icon courtesy Uncut Mountain Supply
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Learn more at iocc.org

