



Icon of the Good Samaritan

A MEDITATION ON ALMSGIVING

By Fr. Thomas Hopko

Christ commanded his disciples to give alms. To “give alms” means literally “to do” or “to make merciful deeds” or “acts of mercy.” According to the Scriptures, the Lord is compassionate and merciful, longsuffering, full of mercy, faithful and true. He is the one who does merciful deeds (see Psalm 103). Acts of mercy are an “imitation of God” who ceaselessly executes mercy for all, without exception, condition or qualification.

Mercy is a sign of love. God is Love. A deed of merciful love is the most Godlike act a human being can do. To love as Christ loves, with the love of God who is Love, is the chief commandment for human beings according to Christianity. And, acts of mercy should be done without qualification or condition to everyone, no matter who, what or how they are (Parable of the Good Samaritan).

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The icon of the Good Samaritan is provided by St. Isaac of Syria Skete, Boscobel, WI

IOCC Upcoming Events

More details at www.iocc.org/events.

- **NEW YORK, NY** – 3/20/10
Haiti Benefit Concert
Russian Orthodox Cathedral of the Holy Virgin Protection
- **SAN FRANCISCO, CA** – 3/25/10
Crossing the Ocean for Children
hosted by Vladimir Radmanovic
St. John the Baptist Serbian Cathedral
- **CHERRY HILL, NJ** – 4/10/10
Jump with Joy
St Thomas Greek Orthodox Church
- **ATLANTA, GA** – 4/17/10
10th Annual 5K Walk
Century Center Plaza Office Park
- **DENVER, CO** – 4/17/10
2nd Annual Dinner
St. Catherine Greek Orthodox Church
- **BALTIMORE, MD** – 4/24/10
Orthodox Taste of Baltimore
Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral
- **CLEVELAND, OH** – 4/26/10
18th Annual Banquet
St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church
- **CHICAGO, IL** – 4/29/10
16th Annual Banquet
Rosewood Restaurant and Banquets
- **PERTH AMBOY, NJ** – 6/26/10
IOCC Family Picnic
Location TBD



INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES

PRIEST to PRIEST

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“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.” – Mark 10:45



Dear Rev. Fathers:

As you know, much better than I, trying to serve our Lord and His people is an awesome and yet humbling experience. Especially during this time of Great Lent and Pascha, I am overcome with the realization of the love and sacrifice our Lord has made for us. I am humbled by your tireless and sacrificial actions in serving your flock as you share in our Lord's priesthood. I am also inspired and humbled by the faithful stewardship of your parishioners as they respond to our Lord's call to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, give drink to the thirsty – to serve their neighbor.

Instead of the message from one of your fellow clergy that you would usually find here, in this edition of Priest to Priest I'd like to express to you our heartfelt thanks. Your leadership in helping your parishes respond to the latest Haiti disaster emulates our Lord's own service and self-sacrifice. The tens of thousands of hygiene kits that have been assembled by your respective communities and the monies you have collected and forwarded are not only much-needed, but a tangible way for your people to connect with the suffering in Haiti and throughout the world. In this edition of Priest to Priest you will learn about some of the concrete

actions that your collective efforts have helped facilitate. Your efforts are life-saving and life-changing.

One example of the generous response by Orthodox Christians that I would like to lift up were the actions of three young students in a Sunday School class in Washington state. We recently received a \$25 money order for our work in Haiti with the following two handwritten notes attached:

Dear Friends
here is ten \$ i saved up for to give to you.
I hope you find a use for it
hope you have a great time.
Love Charissa
age 10

Dear Friends
I'm giving you six dollars. I hope you like
what I gave you and I hope your
place gets better soon.
from Nicholas

Sometimes in the middle of a crisis, when things are really hectic, I wonder, are we making a difference? Nicholas and Charissa gave me the answer once again. Your work – our work – is life-changing, not just for our “neighbor” but for ourselves. Thank you for your selfless servant leadership.

Have a blessed Lent and Pascha,

Constantine M. Triantafilou
Executive Director & CEO



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FATHERS: PLEASE DISPLAY THE INSIDE POSTER IN YOUR PARISH

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION FOR ORTHODOX CLERGY

From the clergy of the IOCC Board of Directors:
Very Rev. Michael Ellias, Rev. Luke Palumbis, Very Rev. Michael Rosco, Rev. Nicholas Triantafilou



THANK YOU *to all who responded to the* SURVIVORS of HAITI'S EARTHQUAKE

As of March 1, 2010, more than \$2 million in aid has been provided to survivors of Haiti's January 12 earthquake by Orthodox Christians through International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC). The distribution of aid supplies, which began arriving to Haiti within one week of the disaster, has directly served an estimated 95,000 people.



Photos by Paul Jeffrey/ACT Alliance



(left bottom) A woman fastens poles for rafters together with strips of cloth as she builds a temporary home in a camp for quake survivors north of Port-au-Prince, Haiti. (left top) Angelene, 13, and other children in Port-au-Prince participate in an art program for survivors of the January 12 earthquake. The project is supported by IOCC and its partners in the ACT Alliance. (above) Rose, a 10-year old survivor of the January 12 earthquake in Haiti, lost both her legs when the orphanage she was living in collapsed. IOCC and its partner, Wheels for Humanity, are shipping a container with 250 adult wheelchairs, 250 crutches and 200 walkers to Haiti to assist those who have been disabled through injuries sustained during the catastrophe.

EMERGENCY AID PROVIDED TO HAITI HAS INCLUDED:

- Medicines
- Medical equipment
- Water purification and distribution equipment
- Wheelchairs, crutches and walkers
- Tents and shelter materials
- Hygiene kits
- Fuel
- Food
- Blankets and mattresses

Many of the items for distribution were purchased in the Dominican Republic and Haiti in an effort to support the local economy and promote the renewed flow of commerce on the island.

INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES

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