



Office of the Bishop
312 Garfield Street
Johnstown, PA 15906

Protocol N. 11/2017

September 7, 2017

Christ is in Our Midst!

Dear Reverend Fathers and Faithful of the Diocese:

I am writing today to request your immediate assistance with the relief efforts of the International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) in the aftermath of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. We have all seen the news reports of the devastation and understand that the need is great.

I am pleased to have learned that some parishes have already taken or have scheduled special collections for IOCC in the near future. I direct all of our parish communities to do so as soon as possible, give whatever you can. Please send the proceeds of your collections DIRECTLY to IOCC.

With my blessing, the National ACRY at their Convention this past weekend has graciously offered to coordinate a Diocesan-wide collection of the tangible items that IOCC has requested. The collection of specific items and their assembly into emergency kits is a wonderful way to engage all members of our Diocesan parishes in an extremely meaningful service project. At the Convention, the members of the Junior ACRY kicked off the project by assembling 100 Hygiene Kits in a very short period of time. I strongly encourage all our parishes to consider assisting in this manner as well. All parishes will be receiving detailed information regarding this project in the very near future.

To help track our Diocesan response, I am asking that all priests of the Diocese to inform the Chancery of the total of your special collection and the number of emergency kits your parish community may be sending to IOCC by filling out an online response form at <http://www.acrod.org/diocese/harvey-response>.

Grateful for your anticipated assistance with our Diocesan relief efforts and bestowing my Archpastoral Blessing, I remain,

Working in His Vineyard,

+ Bishop Gregory of Nyssa

The American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese of the U.S.A.
ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE OF CONSTANTINOPLE