



GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
ANNUNCIATION
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

September 1, 2020

Dear Annunciation Faithful and Co-workers in Christ,

With the pandemic and social unrest, we have to ask ourselves where is the greater good? What is God calling us to in the midst of our brokenness? No matter the current challenges we face in America, imagine losing water, food and shelter overnight. This is what happened in Beirut, Lebanon on August 4, 2020. 181 people died, 6,000 were injured, and 300,000 are now homeless. This resulted in an estimated \$10 to 15 billion dollars in property damage.

IOCC (*International Orthodox Christian Charities*) was there to help and immediately sent relief. Following the deadly explosion IOCC deployed \$150,000 in emergency funding and began conversations with institutional donors about adjusting ongoing programs to address the immediate crisis. Short-term assistance includes hygiene parcels, the expansion of community kitchens, and assessments for building rehabilitation.

IOCC, in the spirit of Christ's love, offers emergency relief and development programs to those in need worldwide, without discrimination, and strengthens our capacity, the faithful in the local Church to respond. Since its inception in 1992, IOCC has provided more than \$715 million in humanitarian relief and sustainable development programs in over 60 countries worldwide. Working with and through the local Orthodox Church, IOCC is meeting humanitarian needs in a responsible and effective way, with 92 cents of every dollar going directly to aid on the ground. Learn more at iocc.org and follow @IOCCRelief on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/IOCCRelief), [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/IOCCRelief), and [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/IOCCRelief).

IOCC is **our Church's most impactful agency** to help those in need. We invite and encourage you, the faithful of Annunciation, to make a gift in any amount to help those affected by this tragedy by typing the link below in your browser or by clicking on the button below. Most importantly, pray for those who are continuing to suffer in Beirut.

<https://iocc.org/blog/expanding-how-iocc-shares-christs-love-in-lebanon>

Sincerely in Christ,

Father James Retelas
Presiding Priest

Dr. Nicholas Rotas
IOCC Parish Liaison

*"For I was hungry, and you gave Me food; I was thirsty, and you gave Me drink;
I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked, and you clothed Me."
(Matthew 25:35-36)*