



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF DENVER

August 28, 2017

Protocol 17-06

Reverend Clergy, Pious Monastics,
and Faithful Parishioners
of the Metropolis of Denver

Beloved in the Lord,

The past few days have witnessed one of the most catastrophic weather events in United States history after Hurricane Harvey made landfall near Corpus Christi, Texas on Friday, August 26, 2017. Although the event has been downgraded to a tropical storm its devastating effects continue to wreak havoc in south Texas and Louisiana, especially in the greater Houston area.

Lives have been lost and many thousands have been displaced by the severe flooding which has resulted from the storm. Among those who have been evacuated or suffered total losses of their homes are many of our own Orthodox clergy and laity.

In the face of this incredible tragedy, I direct that a special collection be made in all parishes of the Metropolis of Denver on either Sunday, September 3, 2017 or Sunday, September 10, 2017. These monies should be directed to International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), which is mobilizing its Emergency Response Network Frontliners to assist in offering Emotional and Spiritual Care in American Red Cross shelters, as well as working with local and national assistance organizations to provide essential supplies for the general relief effort and to address specific needs of Orthodox faithful.

Checks from parishes and individuals should be made out to "IOCC US Emergency Response Fund" (noting Hurricane Harvey in the memo) and sent to 110 West Road, Suite 360, Baltimore, MD 21204. Donations also can be made online at www.iocc.org.

May our merciful God allow the waters to recede from the face of the earth as he did in the days of Noah, and may He grant safekeeping to all of His people that are in harm's way.

With paternal blessings,

+Metropolitan Isaiah of Denver