



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY

ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΝΕΑΣ ΙΕΡΣΕΗΣ

Turkey and Syria Earthquakes 2023

The Very Reverend and Reverend Clergy
Honorable Archons of the Order of St. Andrew,
Esteemed Members of the Metropolis Councils,
Esteemed Members of the Parish Councils, Philoptochos Sisterhood, Faculty, and all devout Orthodox
Christians of the Communities of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey

My Beloved in the Lord,


It is truly with much concern and sadness that I communicate with you with the blessings of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America in regards to the destructive earthquakes that have brought major damage, much devastation and great loss of life in Turkey and Syria.

These devastating earthquakes have taken the lives of over 40,000 people, have displaced hundreds of thousands of people from their homes, and have created a sense of complete desolation and despair for the victims of this destructive natural disaster. It is during tragic and challenging times such as these, that we as Orthodox Christians must put our faith into practice and offer assistance to those suffering in Turkey and Syria. It is in this spirit of love and concern for our fellow man that I exhort all of our faithful to pray fervently for all those in Turkey and Syria affected by these catastrophic earthquakes.

Furthermore, in an effort to offer financial assistance to the victims of this disaster in their hour of need, with the blessings of His Eminence, I ask that today, **Sunday, February 19, 2023, a Special Tray be passed in all of the parishes of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey** for the victims of the earthquakes. Please know that all proceeds of this tray will be forwarded to our sacred Archdiocese to be contributed to the Earthquake Relief Fund recently established by our beloved Archbishop.

Conveying to you the paternal blessings of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, praying that our merciful Lord will offer His love and compassion to those suffering in Turkey and Syria, and thanking you for your generosity, I remain

With Paternal Love and Blessings,


+ APOSTOLOS
Bishop of Medeia

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- *This letter is to be read before the passing of the tray, on Sunday, February 19, 2023*
 - *All checks are to be made payable to the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey with "Earthquake Relief Fund" in the memo line and sent to 215 E. Grove St., Westfield, NJ 07090*