



Dear brothers and sisters,

We are to begin the month of November in which the Church prays in a particular way for the dead with the certainty that comes from faith in Christ, knowing that life is not taken from us, but we are transformed and that death does not break the bonds of love that unites us on earth with our loved ones. One of the best gifts we can give to our deceased brothers and sisters is to have Holy Masses celebrated in their suffrage. In the Eucharist Heaven and earth meet and the souls of the dead receive great spiritual benefits. I am very happy to know that this gesture of great love is still very much practiced in our diocesan community. For a long time it has been customary to accompany the request for a particular intention in the Eucharistic celebration with a financial offering for the priest or the Christian community where the Mass takes place. This gesture, far from being an act of commerce or a simple courtesy, has a very significant spiritual value: by giving something concrete that belongs to us, we actively participate in the action of Christ who in the Holy Mass continues to offer all of Himself for the salvation of the world. With our offer, we also take care of the concrete needs of our Christian communities. This, as we have been taught since the catechism, is an important duty of every good Christian. We are all aware of how the economic situation of the whole world, and therefore of our country, is constantly evolving. This necessarily involves a change in many of our habits so that they can really adapt to current circumstances. For this reason, after careful reflection, **starting from Sunday 30th of October 2022, through this letter, I indicate for the whole diocesan territory the sum of 100 TL as an offering for each particular intention of the Holy Mass that the faithful will request.** I would like to underline that the proposed sum of money is in no way intended to be a "fare" for the celebration of Holy Masses whose infinite value could not be determined by any commercial law. Those who, according to their heart and possibilities, want to donate a higher offer can continue to do so; at the same time I ask the parish priests and the leaders of the various communities to take into account with wisdom and Christian charity, the situations in which the disbursement of this sum would be



Metropolitan Archbishop of Izmir

excessively burdensome or even unsustainable. Dear brothers and sisters, please welcome this decision that the circumstances of the present time have led me to take generously and I invite you, whenever you ask for the celebration of a Holy Mass according to your intentions, not to leave your offer by simply fulfilling a formality, but animated by sincere affection towards your communities and with gratitude towards your priests who, accepting the call of the Holy Spirit, have left everything to come to this land to serve the Church and make every day a gift of their life so that each of you can meet Christ. I cordially greet and thank each of you. May the Lord, always faithful to his promises, who has assured a hundredfold to all those who leave something for the Kingdom of God, give you His every blessing abundantly.



+ Most Rev.

+Martin Kmetec

Archbishop of Izmir

P. Alessandro Amprino

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Office*