



Metropolitan Archbishop of Izmir

Izmir, 7/2/2023

Dear brothers and sisters,

the violent earthquake that struck Turkey yesterday is a source of deep pain for all of us. I address a thought of sincere closeness to all those who have been affected by the earthquake and who also suffer from the fate of their loved ones.

According to the example we have received from the Lord Jesus, as an ecclesial community we wish to share the pain and anguish of our neighbour, also joining our contribution to the many relief initiatives that have been organised in different parts of the world.

For this reason, on February 12th, the 6th Sunday of Ordinary Time, the Archdiocese of Izmir will live a day of prayer and solidarity for all those who have been affected by the earthquake.

In every Holy Mass we will pray, even with a particular memory in the prayer of the faithful, for those who have lost their lives, for the wounded, for those who are in pain because of the earthquake. We are also going to pray that the Lord will support the work of rescuers and civil authorities. In addition, offerings that will be collected on that day during liturgical celebrations will be donated to support earthquake victims and their needs.

Brothers and sisters, even in this dramatic circumstance the Lord is our hope and invites us to be an ecclesial community that, guided by the commandment of Love, remains not hidden and indifferent, but light of the world that shines brighter than darkness, death and anguish.

I am grateful to you for your generosity. I cordially greet each of you and wish you all the best from the Lord.

+ *Mart Kmetec*
+ Martin Kmetec OFM Conv.
Archbishop of Izmir